

# Lancaster in 1876

## Observing the Centennial Year

Annotated by Dr. George L. Heiges

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### NOTE OF EXPLANATION

In selecting these news items of peculiar interest from the Lancaster dailies which appear in this series of articles the annotator found it necessary to use three different newspapers as the Library of the Lancaster County Historical Society does not have a complete file of any one single city newspaper for the year eighteen hundred and seventy six. The following newspapers were used: January through June, *Lancaster Evening Express*; July through August, *Lancaster Intelligencer*; September through December, *Lancaster Daily Express* and *Lancaster Intelligencer*.

**THE BIRTH of THE CENTENNIAL YEAR - APPROPRIATE CELEBRATION - 1876.** What a chapter of history is recalled in the writing of these figures— the glorious figures that tell of one hundred years of national freedom, and such freedom as the world never saw before. Well was it then that the infant year of 1876 should be greeted with a proper reception, for it is the jubilee year of the nations of the earth. Wishing our readers, one and all a happy New Year, we shall proceed to a description of the birth of the Centennial Year as we saw it in Lancaster. Early in the evening the streets were thronged with people and on every hand signs of preparation for grand old time were plainly visible. Before we enter upon the details of the street scenes, we shall make a note of the quiet in-door enjoyment among the churches.

(Here follows an account of services in the Evangelical Church, First M. E. Church, Moravian and St. Johns Episcopal)

Leaving the quiet, refreshing atmosphere of the churches, we

come upon the streets . . . The birth of an ordinary year could not have called into being such a spirit of patriotism and never did Fourth of July witness a more truly American spirit,

The Light Guards in full number and with manly bearing moved through the streets and at twelve o'clock they fired a national salute in front of the soldiers' monument in Centre Square.

The Shiffler Boys, always patriotic, marched the streets in citizens dress to the number of about forty men, each bearing a musket. There were old soldiers in that crowd as could be told by their salutes.

Clemmen's City Band also appeared in Centre Square at midnight and performed a number of patriotic airs; and at the same time the chimes of Old Trinity under the clever manipulation of Mr. John B. Kevinski wafted 'Old Hundred' to the breeze, followed by several patriotic and religious airs.

AT COLUMBIA -The patriotic citizens of that place assembled last night in the new town hall to the number of several hundred to take measures to celebrate the commencement of the Centennial Year.

After the appointment of committees, A. J. Kauffman was called out by the audience and made a patriotic speech and sang a song.

The meeting adjourned to meet in front of the hall at midnight and form in procession. . . with torchlights headed by the Columbia Cornet Band and Drum Corps. Precisely at twelve o'clock every church bell in town was rung.

When the town clock struck twelve a band of singers from the classic ground of Tow Hill commenced their song of liberty and marched through the town, their melodious voices making a curious and pleasing contrast to the dim and thunder of guns which greeted you everywhere."

— January 1, 1876

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"PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT - Mrs. John Drew, with her Arch Street company presented two of the best comedies on Saturday night ever witnessed by a Lancaster audience. Mrs. Drew has lost none of her vivacity and the inimitable Sam Hemple is just as racy as ever."

— January 3, 1876

Mrs. John Drew with her husband were the progenitors of one of the most famous families in the American theatre. From 1853 until 1884 Mr. and Mrs. John Drew conducted the Arch street theatre in Philadelphia and for the last thirty one years of that period Mrs. Drew owned and operated the theatre herself. Long known as "the grand old lady of the American stage," she died in 1897. Of her two sons, John and Sydney, it was the former who until his death in 1927 was perhaps

the outstanding actor in our nation. Mrs. John Drew, senior lived to see her granddaughter Ethel Barrymore make her debut on the American stage. Both John Drew and Ethel Barrymore made frequent appearances on the stage of the Fulton Opera House.

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**“OUR PEOPLE’S COLLEGE—** It is eminently fitting that in this Centennial year, the favored children of Lancaster should enter into so



**J.M.W. GEIST** His long journalistic career included the editorship of the Lancaster Evening Express 1856-1877 and his founding, with John Warfel, of The Lancaster New Era in 1877.

grand a building as the new High School— a monument alike to the liberality and educational progress of her people.

The new High School building is a commanding brick edifice 95 x 52 feet, 92 feet in height and situated next door to St. Johns (German) Reformed Church, West Orange Street. With fine pressed brick front, massive doors, heavy metallic cornice and window caps and a great flight of Conewago granite steps leading to the main entrance, it certainly presents an attractive and imposing appearance.

This afternoon at 1½ o'clock the teachers and pupils of the girl's high school, the teachers of all the public schools in the city and the school directors met in the old high school building and marched to the corner of Prince and Chestnut streets and were met by the teachers and pupils of the Boy's High School and marched to the new high school building where the ceremonies of dedication were to take place.

The exercises opened with a fervent prayer by Dr. H. C. Westwood, followed with appropriate and delightful music by the pupils of the schools, under the lead of Prof. Wm. B. Hall, musical instructor. At the conclusion of the music, Rev. Dr. Greenwald delivered an eloquent dedicatory address. Prof. Edward Brooks, Principal of the Normal School was introduced and was received with applause. During the winter it was his duty to travel a good deal throughout the State, attending the meetings of educational bodies and everywhere he went he was met by improvements in public school buildings. The people, after showing their new buildings would naturally ask concerning the school buildings in the capital city of the county from which he came and he confessed that before the erection of this building the question carried with it some embarrassment."

—January 3, 1876

The report of the dedication of the High School Building was continued in the next issue of the Daily Express, which report contained portions of the addresses of Gen. George Steinman, County School Superintendent B. F. Shaub, Prof. Thos. G. Appel, Abraham Peters, an old teacher, Judge Patterson, Dr. Westwood, Peter McConomy, J. P. McCaskey, H. E. Slaymaker, Rev. D. H. Geissinger and Rev. J. H. Shumaker.

Before 1876, there were separate Boys' and Girls' High Schools so that the new High School building of this year was quite a departure. The High School of 1876 continued as an institution for both sexes until 1903 when the Stevens High School for Girls (now the Stevens Elementary Building) was built on West Chestnut street. The Boys' High School (now the Administration Building) was built on West Orange street in 1919.



**LANCASTER HIGH SCHOOL** on West Orange street was dedicated on January 3, 1876. It was used for boys and girls until the Stevens High School for Girls (the Administration Building) was built in 1904. In 1919 the Boys High School was built on the site of the pictured High School. This building is now the Fulton Elementary School.

**"THE HAMMOND MEETINGS** — The Court House was quite well filled yesterday afternoon and the meeting was opened by singing several hymns after which Rev. J. B. Soule offered a prayer."

**WEDNESDAY EVENING** — Another large audience assembled at the Court House last evening and a number being unable to gain admission, Mr. Hammond said that he would go outside and hold a meeting and that Dr. Westwood would conduct the meeting inside. Mr.

Bentley sang 'Ninety and Nine' after which Mr. Hammond chose his text from Phil. 1:21 'For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.'

THURSDAY MORNING — A bible, prayer and praise meeting was held in the Court House this morning with a good attendance. After a hymn and a prayer, Dr. Dobbins made an earnest address. He thought if Mr. Hammond could stir the hearts of the dead Christians in Lancaster, it would be the greatest work he ever did."

—January 7, 1876

Edward Payson Hammond (1831-1910), native of Connecticut and educated at Philps Academy, William College, Union Seminary and at Edinburgh college in Scotland, began his noted evangelistic work in England and Scotland. In 1862 the Presbytery of New York ordained him as an evangelist and from that year until the early years of this century he conducted great campaigns in our own country, in Canada, Great Britian and the Scandinavian countries. He likely was the pioneer in conducting meetings, of the type popularized by Billy Sunday and Billy Graham. He died at Hartford Connecticut.

Three local ministers are mentioned in the above article as being active in the Lancaster campaign of Mr. Hammond. They were Rev. Henry C. Westwood, First Presbyterian; Rev. Joseph B. Dobbins, First Methodist and Rev. J. B. Soule of the Church of God.

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"THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECORD — Dr. Levergood offered a resolution totally doing away with corporal punishment in the public schools of Lancaster. Mr. McComsey remarked that this question had engaged the attention of good and learned men at different times and different places. While opposed to the indiscriminate use of the rod, he could not favor forbidding its use. His experience as a father, in raising a family had taught him the necessity of the rod and yet he believed he had used it as little as any parent. The most learned writers, the most experienced educators and the best of judges had decided in favor of the proper use of the rod. The yeas and nays were called, resulting in the defeat of the resolution by a vote of 27 nays to 5 yeas."

—January 7, 1876

Dr. John Levergood who wished in 1876 to do away with corporal punishment was a medical practitioner in the city of Lancaster with his office and home at 323 N. Lime street. He studied medicine with Dr. Washington Atlee in Philadelphia and was a member of the Lancaster

School Board for thirty years. During the Civil War he served in the army. He died in 1891 at the age of sixty six.

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“THE HAMMOND MEETINGS— Another large audience attended the meeting in the Court House last evening. Mr. Hammond rode through the streets yesterday on horseback, inviting persons to attend the meetings, and this may have awakened some interest. He has endeavoured to secure the market house for the meeting on Sunday afternoon and, if this cannot be done, an open air meeting will be held if the weather is permissible.”

—January 8, 1876

“THE HAMMOND MEETINGS— Another large audience assembled at the Farmers Northern Market House yesterday afternoon. The building is about 240 x 80 feet in size and was fully half filled. There were in attendance from 1500 to 2000 persons. The place was cold and the exercises were short. The choir sang and Mr. Hammond occupied the ‘gallery’ in the front part of the building, from which place he preached. Mr. Bentley sang ‘Ninety and Nine’ after which the meeting adjourned to the First M. E. Church but there was a small attendance.”

—January 10, 1876

“THE HAMMOND MEETING, THE TENTH DAY— D. S. Bursk, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that it was now the tenth night since Mr. Hammond came and no collection had been taken yet, and the committee had incurred some expense for lumber for the platform and other incidentals. He denied the rumor that had gained currency, that Mr. Hammond had made a bargain with the committee for his remuneration. He had been invited, accepted the call, had done good and it was no more than right that he should be rewarded.

The collection was taken while ‘Work for the night is coming’ was sung.”

—January 11, 1876

“THE HAMMOND REVIVAL MEETINGS—THURSDAY EVENING— An immense audience gathered in Fulton Hall last evening. Every available seat was occupied and the aisles were filled, both in the circle and in the gallery. About 100 or 125 persons occupied the stage. We do not believe a larger audience ever assembled in Fulton Hall.”

—January 14, 1876

"A HEAVY TRAIN— A train of 80 cars of live stock passed down the Pennsylvania Railroad for Philadelphia last evening."

—January 14, 1876

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"THE HAMMOND REVIVAL MEETINGS— Fulton Hall was again filled to overflowing last evening. The doors were locked shortly after 7 o'clock and a great many were turned away, unable to gain admittance. Mr. Hammond said he had thought when he came he would not stay longer than two weeks, but we lost a week looking at each other and he would now stay a few days longer. Mr. Hammond then chose his text from Heb. 18."

—January 15, 1876

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Mr. Daniel Bursk, chairman of the Finance Committee for the Hammond meetings was a veteran of the Civil War and was prominent in the religious life of Lancaster. Recognized as the founder of the Lancaster YMCA, he maintained a grocery business on the corner of East King and Christian streets. General Daniel B. Strickler is a grandson of Daniel Bursk.

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"OVERCROWDED FULTON HALL— The Examiner thinks it questionable if such a crowd should be admitted to Fulton Hall as was there on Thursday night. There is no doubt about this. Last night the doors were closed when the Hall was full and yet Mr. Hammond with a persistent disregard of the comfort and safety of the crowd already in, persisted in admitting more. . . . Now in behalf of the safety of those who go there, we insist that those responsible for the management of these meetings shall restrain him (Mr. H.) from overcrowding the Hall as he persisted in doing last night. We assert that it is overcrowded so far as safety in exit is concerned, when more persons are admitted than the number of seats provided in the plan of the Hall will accommodate."

—An editorial Jan. 15, 1876

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"WENT TO HARRISBURG— The Lancaster Light Guards, accompanied by Clemmon's City Cornet Band left the city at an early hour this morning for Harrisburg to take part in the ceremonies of inauguration."

—January 18, 1876



“THE LIGHT GUARDS IN HARRISBURG— The inauguration of Governor Hartranft at Harrisburg yesterday was one of the grandest ever seen. The Lancaster Light Guards (40 men) accompanied by Clemmon’s Cornet Band, participated in the military display and reflected credit upon our city. The ‘boys’ were met and chaperoned the entire day by Representative Rosenmiller.”

—January 19, 1876

Although Governor Hartranft was not a Lancastrian, he was a frequent visitor here by reason of a great interest in Franklin and Marshall College. His interest in the college began when he was a student at old Marshall College at Mercersburg. The inauguration of General Hartranft in 1876 meant for him the beginning of his second term as Governor of the Commonwealth. John F. Hartranft was born in 1830 and died in 1889. He organized the 51st Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers during the Civil War, and was brevetted Major General only at the close of the war.

Hon. David Porter Rosenmiller served two terms as a member of the State House of Representatives, after which he also served as Mayor of Lancaster. A son of Rev. D. P. Rosenmiller, Lutheran pastor in various county churches, he was born in Lancaster, was graduated from Lancaster High School, served in the Navy during the Civil War, then read law in the offices of J. B. Livingstone and A. Herr Smith. Following his term as Mayor, he practiced law until his death in 1891. His office was at 23 N. Duke street while his home was at 330 N. Duke street.

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“ELI PERKINS— Seldom have we seen a larger and certainly never a more cultivated audience than that which assembled at Fulton Hall last night to hear Eli Perkins tell what he knew about the Perkins Family. W. U. Hensel, Esq. of the Intelligencer introduced the lecturer for the evening, Melville D. Landon, better known as Eli Perkins.”

“His very appearance is comical and you begin to feel good the moment you look at him. The audience was kept in continuous good humor and his local jokes in which he introduced prominent citizens were relished immensely.”

“Mr. Landon is extremely sociable and a good fellow to sit up with for a late train. He left last night at 12:40 for New York and lectures tonight in Binghamton.”

—January 19, 1876

Melville De Lancey Landon, born in 1839 on his father’s farm in Madison County, New York, served in the Union Army and following

the war he began the cultivation of cotton in Louisiana. Returning from a European journey he took up journalism. His humorous correspondence signed Eli Perkins made him a reputation as a humorist. After conducting a lecture tour for the great Josh Billings, he also turned to the platform and from 1875 until 1887 he was reputed to have delivered one thousand lectures in all parts of the nation. He wrote and published a number of books of wit and humor and continued to write travel letters after retirement from the lecture platform. He died at Yonkers, New York 1910.

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**“LANCASTER’S TOBACCO CROP**—The Lancaster County tobacco crop for 1875 is selling at twenty cents for wrappers, ten cents for seconds and five cents for fillers. Should the high prices now being paid be maintained, the crop of the county will sell for an aggregate of two million dollars.”

—January 22, 1876

Tobacco was first grown in Lancaster County only for local use. Its developement as a commercial crop dates from about 1825. In 1879 there were 16,992 acres devoted to its cultivation in this county. By 1910, the high point of acreage in tobacco, 32,783 acres were cultivated. Indicating that it is no longer the favorite crop in Lancaster County that it once was, in 1974 tobacco was grown on only 11,700 acres.

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**“COLUMBIA AT THE CENTENNIAL**—Columbia will be represented at the Centennial Exhibition by the Supplee Steam Engine Company of Columbia. Arrangements have been made for space in Machinery Hall for one of the company’s superior engines in motion.”

January 22, 1876

The Supplee Steam Engine Company in 1876 was located at the corner of Fourth and Manor streets in the Borough of Columbia.

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**“DEATH OF REV. B. C. SUESSEROTT**—It is our melancholy duty to record the death of our friend, Rev. B. C. Suesserott, the beloved pastor of St. Johns Lutheran Church, which took place today about eleven o’clock. . . . Born on the 28th day of April 1833 in Chambersburg, educated in Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg, entered the

Theological Seminary at that place, consecrated to the ministry in 1855, he accepted a call to the Whitemarsh charge in Montgomery County. He was united in marriage to Josephine, daughter of Rev. Dr. Schmucker, president of the Theological Seminary. In 1869 he accepted the pastorate of St. Johns Lutheran Church."

"For the third time has the congregation of St. Johns Lutheran been deprived of their shepherd by the hand of death. The loved and honored names of Crumbaugh and Gotwald are inscribed on memorial tablets on the walls of their sanctuary. Soon, the name of Suesserott will be inscribed by their side to remind all who worship there of the admonishing words of his last sermon from that pulpit and on that memorial should be inscribed the pregnant words of the text 'Occupy till I come.' "

—January 24, 1876

"OBSEQUIES OF REV. B. C. SUESSEROTT— The bad condition of the streets this morning rendered it very unpleasant to be out; but notwithstanding, a very large number of people visited St. Johns Lutheran Church to attend the funeral services of the lamented pastor."

"Rev. W. M. Baum, D.D. of Philadelphia conducted the service. 'Rest, Spirit, Rest' was sweetly sung by the choir of the church, Prof. Matz presiding at the organ. Rev. Mr. Barker of St. Johns Episcopal Church read some appropriate passages of scripture, Rev. Dr. Kremer of the Reformed Church offered a prayer and Dr. Baum delivered a solemn and impressive address. The congregation repaired to the Lancaster Cemetery where the usual burial services were conducted, Rev. Dr. Conrad of Philadelphia officiating."

—January 27, 1876

Dr. Conrad who conducted the burial service was a former pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster and at this time was editor of the Lutheran Observer, a position which he held until his passing in 1898.

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"It is remarkable that the first month of the Centennial winter closely resembles that of 1776. The journals of that year speak of the unusual mildness of the season."

—January 27, 1876

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"MR. HAMMOND'S DEPARTURE— Rev. E. P. Hammond departed for York yesterday afternoon, accompanied by a large number of

Christian workers. Quite a large number of persons assembled at the depot, where a hymn was sung and Mr. Hammond indulged in a small talk."

—January 27, 1876

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"Hon. E. Billingfelt of Adamstown sent this morning the profile, plans and drawings of the surveys of the People's Freight Railway from the Delaware to the Susquehanna and thence to the Ohio to Chief Engineer McConoughy in New Jersey, who is preparing a final estimate of the cost to be presented at the next meeting of the principal Board of Directors in New York. Mr. Billingfelt is one of the leading citizens of Lancaster County and his industry, thrift and straightforward business ways have been a great incentive to his neighbors in Adamstown."

—January 28, 1876

Elmer Billingfelt was indeed a prominent citizen of Adamstown. A bachelor all of his life, he was classed as a financier and lumberman. From the extensive woodland which he owned, he cut much of it for poles and railroad ties, the latter for the use of railroads in Lancaster and Berks Counties. He was a long time active member of the Lancaster County Historical Society to which organization he gave many Indian artifacts and pottery from his collection. He died April 10, 1920.

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"FIREMAN'S CONVENTION— At a meeting held last evening in the Washington Hose House of the delegates of the different companies, it was unanimously agreed to have a fireman's parade on Washington's birthday, the 22nd of February in honor of the Centennial year in Lancaster."

—January 29, 1876

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"A TERRIBLE GALE LAST NIGHT— Last night will long be remembered as one of the most tempestuous ever known in this vicinity. Signs creaked, trees groaned, windows rattled and the chimneys seemed filled with shrieking creatures. It was a terrible night as our faithful guardians of the night, the police, can attest. They say they couldn't sleep on their beats nearly so soundly as usual. Seriously, it

was fearful and from a hurried trip through town this morning, our reporter has been enabled to glean the following details of the disastrous results of the storm." (The details followed)

—February 2, 1876

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**"THE FISH INTEREST—** The committee appointed by the Legislature to inspect the fishway at Columbia and the State hatching house at Donegal Springs, left Harrisburg yesterday morning. The State hatching house is an object of peculiar interest, over 500,000 young fish brought forth, by artificial process, being there. An effort is also being made at the hatching house to propagate what are commonly known as Susquehanna salmon. The Legislative committee were the guests at Marietta of Mr. James Duffy, one of the fishery commissioners."

—February 5, 1876

Utilizing the pure and crystal clear water of the strong Donegal spring, the State fisheries at Donegal were for many years a place of much interest. Mr. James Duffy, one of the fish commissioners was a constant promoter of fish hatcheries throughout the state. A rich and prominent citizen of Marietta, he entertained in his home many famous personages.

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"A large and intelligent and delighted audience gathered at Fulton Hall on Saturday evening to hear Mrs. Livermore discuss the absorbing question 'What shall we do with our daughters?' For nearly two hours she held her audience spellbound with her eloquence and wisdom and when she closed, the audience sat still, as though yearning for more, for everyone felt that it was 'good to have been there'."

—February 7, 1876

Native of Boston, Massachusetts, Mary Ashton (Rice) Livermore was celebrated as a reformer, a suffragist and as a lecturer. During the Civil War she exerted her energies in behalf of the U. S. Sanitary Commission which did much to make the lot of the soldier pleasant. Following the war she was just as energetic in her efforts to abolish the liquor traffic and to improve public education. Further, she edited and published a magazine with the title "The Agitator" which was entirely devoted to the cause of woman suffrage. From 1872 until 1900 she was certainly one of the country's best known platform speakers. Still lecturing at age eighty three, she died on May 23, 1905.

**"THE HIGH SCHOOL—** A gymnasium is now needed at the High School to complete the appointments of that beautiful building. Boys are full of robust life and they delight to give free expression to their bodily energies. We understand that the attic of the new building, not used for any other purpose, would make an admirable room for boyish sport. No outlay is required for apparatus, as the few simple arrangements necessary for a variety of performances can be readily supplied by a little labor on the part of the lads themselves."

—February 8, 1876

A good many years were to elapse before a gymnasium would be a requisite in the Lancaster High School and a physical education instructor would be a member of the teaching staff.

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**"CENTENNIAL CONTRACT—** Messrs. Peters and Burger of this city, who, in addition to their former contracts, recently received one for building an extension to the Art Gallery on the Centennial grounds and have given the contract for roofing the same to Messrs. Foose and Shirk of East King street. The roof of the structure will require 150,000 square feet of tin and the work will be done under the personal supervision of Mr. Foose himself."

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**"CENTENNIAL ACCOMMODATIONS—** Mayor Stauffer is in receipt of a letter from W. W. Nevin of Philadelphia, asking for early information as to the probable number of people that can be accommodated in hotels, boarding houses and private families in Lancaster during the Centennial Exhibition."

—February 9, 1876

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**"ROBERT RISK, ESQ.** of the Columbia Herald delivered his lecture on 'Hobbies' at a literary entertainment given by the Maytown Lyceum on Saturday evening last."

—February 10, 1876

Robert Blair Risk (1848-1926) was born on a farm in Drumore Township, Lancaster County, educated at Williamsburg Academy, Parkesburg Academy and Chestnut Level Academy and read law with Samuel H. Reynolds at Lancaster. He was admitted to the Lancaster

Bar in 1872 but never practiced to any extent. Rather, he entered the newspaper field and after publishing the Columbia Herald for several years, became the editor of the Lancaster Examiner, a post which he held for the next quarter century. A celebrated feature of the Examiner during Risk's editorship was his weekly column titled "Observed and Noted." After the Examiner was absorbed by the New Era this feature was continued and eventually many of the articles were made into a book. Mr. Risk spent his latter years on his farm "Four Pines" in Dru-more Township. A paper on Robert Blair Risk written by James I. Pyle may be found in Volume 56 of the Lancaster County Historical Society journals.

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**"LUMBER FOR THE CENTENNIAL—** Mr. C.A. Schaffner of Marietta has furnished within the past few weeks for the Centennial buildings twenty carloads of lumber to the order of Peters and Burger. No doubt some others of our lumber merchants have been receiving similiar orders but we have no knowledge of the fact."

—February 11, 1876

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**"DEDICATION OF HOSPITAL—** The old almshouse has been converted into a hospital and the remodelled building, as will be seen elsewhere, will be dedicated to its new use tomorrow (Sunday) afternoon at two o'clock. Addresses will be delivered by prominent clergy-men and a choir from the city will render the music."

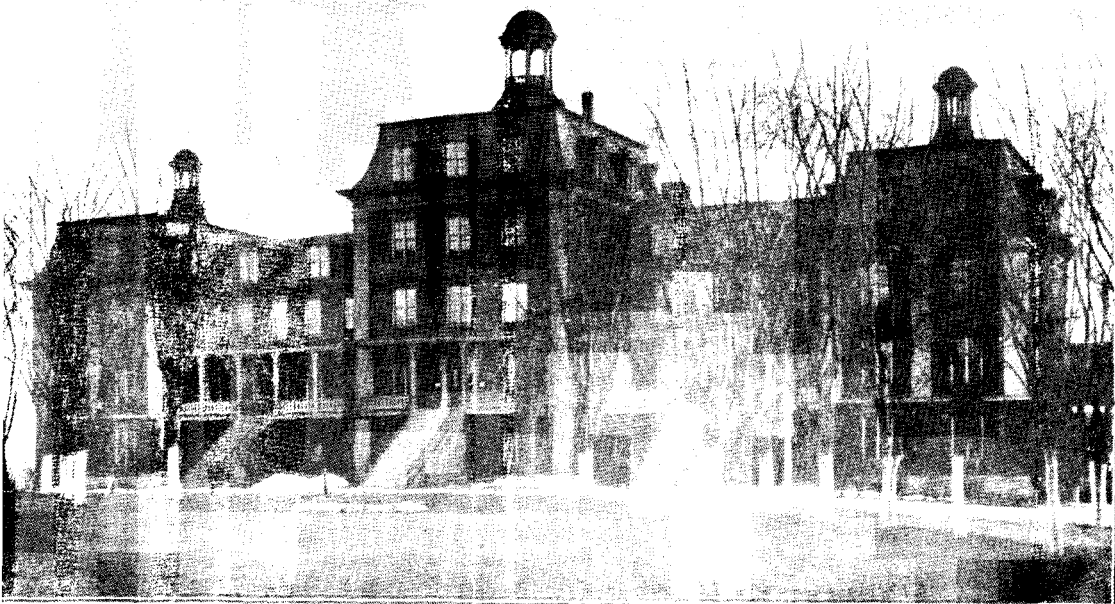
—February 12, 1876

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**"DEDICATION—** Two o'clock yesterday afternoon was set apart as the time for the dedication of the new hospital and when that hour arrived every available space in the corridor of the building was occupied by visitors. There is no chapel in the building and the speaking was done from the first landing of the main stairway. At the foot of the stairs stood an organ gracefully presided over by Miss Lizzie Zecher. The music was furnished by the choir of the Second Church of God, the pastor of which, Rev. J. B. Soule led. Addresses were delivered by Dr. Greenwald, Dr. Westward and Rev. J. B. Shumaker."

—February 14, 1876

The building dedicated in 1876 became known as the County Home and served the county until 1968 when the modern building known as Conestoga View replaced the 1876 building. According to the news item, the building did not contain a chapel; a feature which was added at some time after its erection.



Lancaster County Home, dedicated February 13, 1876. Conestoga View, built in 1968 now occupies the site.

**“ANNIVERSARY AND SOCIABLE—** The officers, teachers and pupils and friends of the East Orange Street Mission of Trinity Lutheran Church met last evening for the purpose of celebrating their first anniversary. The exercises were opened with singing, prayer and scripture reading by Mr. John W. Hubley. Music formed the principal pastime, pleasantly interspersed with recitations by Miss Amanda Landis and interesting stories by Rev. Elvin C. Haupt.”

—February 15, 1876

This mission Sunday School on East Orange street under the leadership of Trinity Lutheran Church members antedated by twenty one years another Lutheran mission Sunday School at 17 Clark street which developed into the Church of the Advent.

Rev. C. Elvin Haupt in 1876 was the assistant pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church. Later (1880-1920), he was the beloved pastor of Grace Lutheran Church.

Miss Amanda Landis, with a rare gift of elocutionary power was in constant demand for almost half a century to demonstrate her ability. However it was as a teacher at Millersville State Normal School where her influence was most felt. During thirty five years at that institution she taught at various times English, public speaking, psychology and pedagogy. Apart from her work in education she gave of herself in the work of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and at one time she served as Vice-president of the State union.



“AN ARTIST— We had the pleasure of viewing a fine large landscape picture this morning, painted in oil by Mr. G. W. Rote of this city, it being his third effort. When we state that Mr. Rote never had an instructor but bloomed forth a full fledged painter, the surprise of those who see the painting will be all the greater.”

—February 17, 1876

In the Lancaster City directory of 1876 Mr. Rote is listed as a “painter” and living at 52 Locust street.

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“THE OREGON CHURCH— A little more than a year ago there was erected in the village of Oregon a church, which is known as The Union Church, from the fact that it was built through the influence of several denominations, together with the people of the surrounding village and which has proven to be successful as well as of benefit in the work of the Lord. There are at present four different denominations which have services: the River Brethren and Dunkers who hold divine services every six weeks and the Methodists and New Mennonites every four weeks. A singing school is held every two weeks.”

—February 18, 1876

Although the United Brethren denomination is not mentioned in this item, according to the history of that group, the United Brethren denomination was the only church which used the building consistently through the years. Today the same frame building serves the Oregon congregation of the former United Brethren Church, now the United Methodist Church.

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“DEATH OF AN AGED CITIZEN— Jacob White of Penn Township died on Wednesday last, aged 98 years. Interment took place at the graveyard attached to the Kissel Hill Church, Rev. Mr. Peters of Manheim officiating. Mr. White was born in Berks County on the 21st day of November 1777. He removed to the place where he died (near Keller’s Station) about the year 1825, purchasing the farm at \$40 per acre, good land and one half covered with the best of timber. He saw his descendents to the fifth generation, the whole number being two hundred and two.”

—February 19, 1876

**"FIREMAN'S PARADE—** The fireman had a parade this afternoon and it proved a very fine affair. The following was the order of procession:

Chief Marshal David Hartman and aids  
Lititz Cornet Band  
Chief of Fire Department Schoenberger and assistants  
Sun Company-Foot Marshal Shields and assistants  
Engine drawn by two horses  
Friendship Company— Chief Marshal Stormfeltz and assistants — twenty men  
Engine drawn by two horses  
Washington Company  
Manheim Band  
Flag Bearer Frederick Arnold  
Chief Marshal H.A. Miley and assistants, 31 men in blue shirts, 25 men in old equipment  
Steamer drawn by six horses  
American Company-Chief Marshal G. Washington King and assistants  
Engine drawn by two horses  
Band  
Forty men with carriage  
Humane Fire Engine  
Keystone Drum Corps  
Chief Marshal Joseph Ferry and assistants, 37 men  
Carriage and steamer"

—February 22, 1876

And that, it would appear from newspaper records, represented the total celebration of Washington's Birthday in the great Centennial year.

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**"REVOLUTIONARY RELIC—** A couple of aged hotel or inn signs are now in the possession of John Mason, the host of the White Horse Hotel in this county. The first and most interesting is a large swinging sign which now contains the words 'Waterloo Tavern' and the date 1771. It originally swung at a point on the 'Old Road' about seventeen miles from Lancaster on the premises owned by Amos Henderson, Esq., banker of Lancaster. The building which is still standing was used as a hotel and then bore the name of the 'Three Crowns'. The relic after being removed from its native place was repainted, the words Waterloo Tavern being placed over the offensive crowns and for many years swung at Waterloo, a few miles down the road and now the summer residence of Nathaniel P. Burt, Esq. of Philadelphia."

—February 24, 1876

The famous Waterloo Tavern sign is now at the Sheraton-Conestoga Motor Inn. John Mason's White Horse Hotel was in the village of White Horse in Salisbury Township, not very far from the Chester County Line. About half a mile east of White Horse on the old Philadelphia Pike stood the Waterloo Tavern, which went out of business in 1844 when Nathaniel Burt bought the property from the Henderson family. Here Mr. Burt established a summer home which he named Waterloo after the inn which had stood there. In 1862 he raised in Lancaster County the one hundred and forty second regiment of which he became the colonel. He never saw active service but contributed his service in many ways for the cause of the Union.

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“THE COLUMBIA FISHERIES— On Friday next the committee appointed by the House of Representatives to visit and inspect the fisheries at Columbia and the State hatching house at Donegal Springs will leave for that purpose.”

—February 24, 1876

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“MOUNT HOPE FURNACE— Mr. A. B. Grubb, proprietor of the Mount Hope Furnace intends to blow out his furnace in spring and rebuild the hearth for the purpose of introducing the hot blast, recently furnished by the Weimer Machine Works. The furnace is one of the oldest in this section of the state and is still burning charcoal. Of late it produced 42 tons per week. In construction it is small and requires but one filler, one keeper and one gutter man on turn at a time.

—February 25, 1876

Begun about 1785 by Peter Grubb, Jr., the Mount Hope Furnace in 1876 was being operated by Alfred Bates Grubb, who was a great grandson of the founder and a first cousin of Miss Daisy E. B. Grubb, who was the last member of the Grubb family to live in the ironmaster's mansion at Mount Hope.

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“CENTENNIAL— We smoke centennial cigars, lighted with centennial matches. We look at our centennial calender for the day of the month and find out when the sun rises by consulting our centennial almanac. We receive centennial communications, written on centennial note paper with centennial pens dipped in centennial ink. We attend centennial tea parties, purchase centennial relics and admire ladies dressed in centennial robes. We may soon expect the poultryman to

say he has a centennial turkey that he will send home in a centennial basket for a centennial dinner. Before this centennial year is ended and departed we shall all know how noble a thing it is to suffer and be strong."

—February 26, 1876

Even in 1876 the Americans had already developed the habit to overdo; and it would appear that in February the editor of the Lancaster Daily Express was already bored to distraction by over emphasis on the great fact of one hundred years of national history.

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"THE MILLERSVILLE PASSENGER RAILWAY under the direct management of the company during the past three months has shown a marked improvement, not only in increased and more reliable accomodations to the public but also in its financial affairs. Since the public have ascertained that they can rely upon the cars running at the advertised hours, they are much better patronized."

—February 28, 1876

The first street railway in Lancaster County was the Millersville line, which began carrying passengers on December 4, 1874. It was a horse drawn trolley and ran from the Pennsylvania Railroad station in Lancaster to Millersville. This early street railway line in Lancaster County continued to operate until 1891 when it was succeeded by an electric line.

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"OUR CITY ALDERMAN— Time was when two or three alderman undertook to transact all the business in this city, but not so now: and we take it as evidence of the growth of the city. In addition to aldermans Wiley, John M. Amweg and A. K. Spurrier in the center of the city, we now have Alderman Amwake of the Ninth Ward, Alderman Donnelly of the Eighth Ward with an office away out at the head of East King street, Alderman McConomy of the First Ward and last of all, Alderman Smith of the Seventh Ward who is fitting up an office at the corner of East King and John streets, ready to attend to the wants of 'All Irishtown'."

—February 29, 1876

A perusal of the city directory of 1876 showed us just where these various alderman had their offices and here they are:

William B. Wiley . . . . . 32 North Duke street

A. K. Spurrier . . . . .	26 South Queen street
Alexander F. Donnelly . . . . .	422 Rockland street
H. R. McConomy . . . . .	3 & 5 West Orange street

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“NEW BOOK BY DR. GREENWALD— We learn from “The Lutheran and Missionary” that the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church of this city will soon issue from the press the following books ‘The True Church! Its Way of Justification and its Holy Communion’, ‘Sprinkling, The True Mode of Baptism’, ‘Jesus our Table Guest’, ‘History of Joseph’.

—March 2, 1876

Rev. Emanuel Greenwald, D.D., born near Frederick, Maryland in 1811, was pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church from 1867 until his death in 1885. In 1842 he was elected as the first editor of the Lutheran Standard and throughout his ministerial career he made many contributions to church literature. In the archives of Trinity Church are deposited twenty books authored by Doctor Greenwald.

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“THE CHORAL SOCIETIES— The first annual union of The Lancaster County Choral Societies under the leadership of L. B. Herr will be held at Manheim on Saturday afternoon March eleventh. Societies from the following places will be in attendance: Oregon 100 members, Landisville 75 members, Petersburg 60 members, Kauffman’s 50 members, Manheim 36 members. The exercises will consist of heavy choruses and songs by the societies separately and in union.”

—March 3, 1876

Born at the village of Ronks in 1851, Lauriston B. Herr died in Lancaster in his ninety first year on March 2, 1942. He prepared for teaching by attending Millersville Normal School. Singing societies in the years of his teaching were at the height of their popularity and the young school teacher became one of the most popular singing masters of the community, travelling from place to place to organize societies. His interest in music led him in 1875 to enter business, primarily to sell organs and music with stationery as a side line. In time the organs and music disappeared from his store and Mr. Herr developed Lancaster’s well known book and stationery store, still doing business under the title of Herr’s Office Products.

"THAT GYMNASIUM— A tie vote at the meeting of the School Board on Thursday night defeated the proposition to convert the upper room of the new High School into a place of amusement for the boys. It was urged that the building is not secure enough to withstand the effects of youthful racket. If this is true, our boasted edifice over which so many flattering speeches were made the other day, is not a model of substantial architecture."

"The majority of gymnastic exercises involve no such violent motions as would produce a tremor in an ordinary dwelling. The dumb bells, the parallel bars, the lifting of weights, the various performances that call for the exhibition of muscular strength may all be carried on with the utmost quiet and regularity."

—March 4, 1876

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"MR. WONG CHIN FOO of the Celestial Empire who lectures in Fulton Hall on Sunday afternoon has been complimented with election as an honorary member of the Page Literary Society of the State Normal School at Millersville."

—March 6, 1876

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"MEETING OF AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY— The regular monthly meeting was held in the rooms of the Atheneum yesterday. . . . The subject of forest trees was discussed. Mr. McComsey said 'It seemed to be an almost undisputed fact that as a country is stripped of its timber, the rainfall and streams proportionately decrease. . . . Mr. Jacob Stauffer related an incident of his boyhood. In the neighborhood of Chiques there was a spring in a field which was at that time a perfect swamp. Near it was a hill on which were a great many hickory nut trees. In time they were all cut down and now that which was a swamp is a nice field, perfectly dry and so great has been the change that he could hardly recognize it when he visited the spot a short time ago. This great change occurred within the past forty years. The Chiques creek is one-third less now than it was then. As regards rainfall, he said it is always greater where there was timber, instancing the lower end of the county where it is one-third greater than it is in any other part of the county.'"

—March 7, 1876

In a quiet and intelligent manner, the members of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society in 1876 were giving their attention to matters relating to ecology. They were not listened to by those who

were in high places then but if their findings had been applied, we might not be in the perilous condition we are today. Other organizations similiar to the one in Lancaster were also studying ecological problems, then considered relatively unimportant, now all important.

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**"THE BUSINESS OF THE NORTHERN END—** The Reading Times of yesterday says a large portion of the business of Northern Lancaster County is transacted in that place, the proof of which is shown from the fact that during the month of February there were sold at Ephrata on the Reading and Columbia Railroad 160 local and 128 excursion tickets to Reading. The number of tickets to Lancaster sold during the same month was 80 local and 165 excursion tickets, showing that the business of Ephrata is nearly equally divided between the two cities. From points north of Ephrata, the tendency of the greater portion of the business of these places is to Reading. Among the places that may be mentioned are Adamstown, Reinhold's Station, Reinholds-ville, Swartzville, Union Station, Reamstown, Schoeneck, Flickingers and Bowmansville."

—March 8, 1876

But for the fact that Lancaster City is the county seat of Lancaster County, the residents of the eastern end of the county might consider Reading as their buying center to even a greater degree.

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**"BART—** A correspondent of the Inquirer has made the discovery that Bart stands for Baronet and that the township was named after Sir. William Keith, Baronet, last deputy Governor appointed under William Penn, in 1717 about the time the township was first settled. We had supposed that there was never any doubt about the original name of the district."

—March 11, 1876

Bart was not an original township in 1729 when the county was organized but was only set off from Sadsbury Township in 1743.

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**"BROKE GROUND—** On Friday last Messrs. Peters and Burger of this city broke ground on the Centennial Grounds in Philadelphia for the Pennsylvania Building for which they received the contract at \$12,000."

—March 13, 1876

“IMPROVEMENT ON EAST KING— The Exchange Hotel will no longer accommodate the weary traveler. Mr. George D. Sprecher who purchased the property some time ago will begin tomorrow to tear out the entire front in order to convert the first floor into a spacious store room. Mr. Sprecher intends this summer to replace the building now occupied by his coal office with a new front of modern design, three stories high. Both plans were drawn by Mr. John Evans, our accomplished architect.”

—March 15, 1876

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“MR. BROWN'S LECTURE— The third lecture of the course under the auspices of the Lutheran Sunday School of New Holland came on Thursday evening, J. Hay Brown, Esq. of this city being the lecturer. His subject was 'The Moral and Civil Law'. The 'Clarion' in referring to it said 'The lecture was clothed in most beautiful language, was delivered in a very forcible manner and all who heard it expressed themselves highly pleased with what they heard.'”

—March 18, 1876

In this year J. Hay Brown was a rising young lawyer of twenty seven. He was born in York, son of a Lutheran clergyman and following his graduation from Pennsylvania (Gettysburg) College, he began practicing law in Lancaster. For many years he was associated in legal work with William Uhler Hensel. In 1899 he was elected an associate justice of the State Supreme Court and in 1914 was appointed Chief Justice, which place he filled until retirement in 1919. In 1876 he maintained a law office at 52 N. Duke street and lived, then a bachelor, at Cooper's Hotel, 35 West King street. The last hotel on this site immediately west of Hager's Store was the 'St. George' which was razed in 1963. When Mr. Justice Brown died in 1930 his home was at 219 East Orange Street. Lancaster County Judge W. Hensel Brown is a son of the late Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, J. Hay Brown.

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“CHURCH IMPROVEMENT— St. Johns German Reformed Church, corner of West Orange and North Mulberry streets, built in 1872 is now undergoing a series of improvements which were delayed at that time. Since then the members have held their meetings in the lecture or Sunday School room which is on the first floor of the building. The improvements are now underway and consist of the erection of a steeple 125 feet high and the finishing of the main audience room, around which will be two side galleries and a choir. It is somewhat of a singular coincidence that all the churches in the city named after the



beloved disciple Saint John should be located in the western section of the city a square apart. The first was St. Johns Episcopal, Mulberry and Chestnut; then St. Johns Lutheran, Orange below Mulberry and now St. Johns German Reformed, Orange and Mulberry."

— March 21, 1876

The building of St. Johns German Reformed Church at Orange and Mulberry was razed in 1965 and the congregation now known as St. Johns United Church of Christ relocated in a new edifice at 1921 Wheatland Avenue.

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"THE DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION— At 15 minutes after 12 o'clock midday we sought an entrance at the front door of Fulton Hall and getting into a swaying, crushing mass of humanity, were borne into the hall without volition— an easy mode of travel, some might suppose, but to us it proved exceedingly uncomfortable. The convention was opened promptly at 12 o'clock by Hon. Hendrick W. Wright, chairman of the Democratic State Committee. Wm. H. Playfoud of Fayette was nominated as temporary chairman. A list of temporary secretaries was announced. W. Hayes Grier of Columbia is one of them."

— March 22, 1876

W. Hayes Grier, member of the firm of Grier and Moderwell at 133 S. Front Street, Columbia was proprietor and editor of the Columbia Herald. At one time he held the office of Superintendent of State Printing at Harrisburg.

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"CENTENNIAL SUPPER OF THE Y. M. C. A. — Last evening was the appointed time for the opening of the Centennial Supper of the Y. M. C. A. in their hall, Centre Square. The hall is filled with thirteen tables, representing the thirteen original states with Pennsylvania as the 'Keystone of the Arch' in conformity with the original plan. The tables are uniformly decorated if we except that of Pennsylvania which is more elaborately ornamented than the others; and all are used for lunch purposes.

"An excellent dinner or supper may be procured for the small sum of 50 cents. The proceeds of this centennial supper will be appropriated to the benefit of the Y. M. C. A. of this city."

— March 23, 1876

**"A LANCASTER ARTIST ABROAD—** Our talented artist, Mr. Louis Reingruber has been absent during the greater part of the winter in Philadelphia (where he redecorated the interior of St. Pauls Catholic Church). He has displayed great taste and judgement in the execution of the work.

—March 24, 1876

Ludwig, not Louis, was the name of the eminent Reingruber who lived in Lancaster from 1870 to 1883. Among Lancaster churches which Reingruber decorated may be mentioned Zion Lutheran on East Vine street; St. Anthony's Catholic on East Orange street; Saint James Episcopal on North Duke street. He also did portraits of numerous Lancastrians. The Lancaster County Historical Society owns several. Ludwig Reingruber died in St. Louis 1885 and his body was brought to Lancaster for burial in Zion Cemetery. A sketch of the artist appears in Volume 17 of the Lancaster County Historical Society journals.

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**"SPYING AROUND COLUMBIA—** On Friday morning Postmaster Muller received a letter from the Cincinnati Light Guards, notifying him of their intention to march by way of Columbia from the former city to Philadelphia to attend the Centennial Exhibition."

—March 25, 1876

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**"APPOINTED EXAMINER—** Mr. John C. Long, son of Mr. John F. Long, druggist of this city, has been appointed an examiner of drugs and chemicals for the Centennial Exhibition."

—March 27, 1876

John C. Long was a graduate of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1861. The father, John F. Long operated a drug store at No. 12 North Queen street for sixty years until his son Charles moved it to a site on North Duke street, presently taken up by the Bell Telephone Building.

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**"LANDIS AUTOMATON—** The old Landis puppets, originally exhibited by the late John A. Landis in 1815 have been purchased by Mr. Woodside of this city who has already given several successful exhibitions with them at Manheim and other places in this county."

—March 28, 1876

The John Landis referred to was an innkeeper on the southeast corner of Prince and Orange streets. He also owned and operated the Lancaster Museum on West Orange near Prince; and this is likely where his puppets were first exhibited.

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“SCRAP OF HISTORY ABOUT LITITZ— We were shown this morning by Mr. Chas. A. Heinitsh, druggist a small pamphlet, printed in the Latin language in 1781 and which has been in the Heinitsh family for a great number of years, having originally belonged to the grandfather of the present possessor. It was written by a certain William Brown, M.D. and the introduction is dated ‘Lititz March 12, 1778’.”

“The pamphlet was evidently written by Dr. Brown while on duty as a surgeon in the hospital at Lititz in 1778, the present Lititz Academy (formerly the brother’s house) having been used for hospital purposes at that early period. Quite a number of soldiers died there and were buried near the village.”

“We observe that Dr. Brown spelled the name of the place Lititz, the form for many years having been simply Litiz, the last t of the original name omitted.”

—March 29, 1876

The small pamphlet described by the editor is referred to in pharmaceutical history as the First Pharmacopoeia prepared in America. It was prepared for the use of the physicians at the military hospital at Lititz which was set up following the Battle of Brandywine. More detailed information concerning this early pharmacopoeia may be found in the article “Apothecaries of Lancaster County” L. C. H. S. publications, Vol L page 33. The rare pharmaceutical pamphlet is now owned by the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science.

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“THEODORE THOMAS CONCERT— Theodore Thomas’ celebrated combination of musical talent appeared at Fulton Hall last evening before one of the most select and intelligent audiences that has ever been in attendance on any similiar occasion. The music was of such a character as to defy criticism— the very perfection of instrumentation— hence we will content ourselves by giving the program which was most excellently rendered.

Overture — “Midsummer Nights Dream”	..... Mendelssohn
Andante — “First Symphony”	..... Beethoven
Aria — “Mia Speranza”	..... Mozart
“Bridal Procession”	..... Wagner

"Rhapsodie Hongroise No 14"	..... Liszt
Overture— "William Tell"	..... Rossini
LeRoue triomphale	..... Saint Saens
Overture— "Robespierre"	..... Litolf

—March 30, 1876

Born in Germany in 1835, Theodore Thomas came with his family to the United States in 1845. As a young man he delighted audiences through the country with his violin recitals. Later he directed the orchestras of the Brooklyn Philharmonic Society and the New York Philharmonic Society. In 1869 he made an historic concert tour with an orchestra of 40 musicians, later increased to sixty persons. He is credited with having introduced uniform bowing of violins in orchestras. In the summer of 1876 he was the musical director of the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia and in 1893 at the World's Columbia Exposition in Chicago he directed the musical features. He died at Chicago in nineteen hundred and five.

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"LANCASTER COUNTY LYCEUM ASSOCIATION— The second quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Lyceum Association will be held on Saturday April 8th at the Gap, Salisbury Township. The hour of meeting is ten o'clock a.m. The following is the program: Salutatory by the President J. H. Landis, Manor Township; Essay, Miss Lillian Welsh, Columbia; Oration, M. J. Brecht, Rapho Township; Discussion, Resolved that the United States Government would be justified in interfering in the Cuban Revolution, Disputants: Affirmative, George A. Lane, Intercourse, J. D. Harrar, Christiana; Negative: W. H. Duhling, Elizabethtown. D. B. Kratz, Ephrata."

—March 31, 1876

John H. Landis who was president of the Lyceum Association in 1876 was a public figure in Lancaster County for almost half a century. He was born in Manor Township 1853, and in 1876 when twenty three years of age, was already active in Republican politics. He served in both houses of the State Assembly and was director of the United States Mint at Philadelphia under Presidents McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson. Intensely interested in church and Sunday School Affairs, he served as president of the County Sunday School Association. He died in 1923.

M. J. Brecht who delivered an oration at this meeting was a native of Rapho Township and in 1876 was principal of the Marietta Schools. Following that post he was principal of the Manheim Schools, principal of the Mount Joy Soldiers' Orphan School, Superintendent of Lancaster County Schools (1883-1911) and finally a member of the State Public Service Commission (1911-1923). He died in 1925.